second, and third textured wall surfaces **160**, **162**, and **164** may be used to facilitate gripping of the extension portion **122**.

[0043] In the embodiment of the lever assembly **20** depicted in the drawings, the lever member **30** extends around the entire lever opening **34**. However, the lever member **30** need not extend around the entire lever opening **34**. For example, the base member **30** can comprise only one of the extension side walls **150** or **152**. In this case, the sightline **36** would be defined by the base portion **120**, one of the extension side walls **150** or **152**, and the extension distal wall **154**. In yet another example, the extension distal wall **154** may also be eliminated. In this example, the lever member **30** may be engaged by the user using only one of the extension walls **150** or **152**. In each embodiment, the lever opening **34** allows a user to see through the lever member **30** along the lever axis L. This in turn affords the user an unobstructed view of indicia **90** on the adjustment turrets **80**, **82**, and **84**, as well as any accessories such as bubble levels, range finders, and the like, that may be attached to the optical scope forward of the lever assembly **20** and along the lever sightline **36**.

[0044] The mounting member **32** can be a screw comprising a threaded shaft **190** and a screw head **192**. A drive cavity **194** can be formed in the screw head **192**. The threaded shaft **190** is adapted to engage the mounting hole **78** in the magnification adjustment ring **62** and is sized and dimensioned to pass through the base hole **136**. The screw head **192** is sized and dimensioned to engage the base main wall **130** around the base hole **136**. The mounting member **32** can be arranged for engagement with the mounting hole **78** by manually inserting the mounting member **32** through the lever opening **34** and positioning the end of the threaded shaft **190** opposite the screw head **192** in the base hole **136**.

[0045] However, in some embodiments, the threaded shaft **190** and the screw head **192** can both be sized and dimensioned to pass through the extension wall hole **156** so that the end of the threaded shaft **190** opposite the screw head **192** can be manually inserted directly into the mounting hole **78** through both base hole **136** and the extension wall hole **156**. In this alternate embodiment, the screw head **192** remains sized and dimensioned to engage the base main wall **130** around the base hole **136**.

[0046] The lever assembly **20** can be assembled and attached to the optical scope **22** as follows. The engaging surface **140** of the lever member **30** is arranged relative to the mounting surface **70** of the magnification adjustment ring **62** such that the mounting surface main, first side, and second side portion **72**, **74**, and **76** engage the engaging surface main, first side, and second side portions **142**, **144**, and **146**, respectively, and the base hole **136** in the base main wall **130** is aligned with the mounting hole **78** in the mounting surface **70**. So arranged, the base first and second side walls **132** and **134** inhibit rotation of the lever member **30** about a mounting axis M defined by the aligned mounting hole **78** and base hole **136**.

[0047] The mounting member **32** is then arranged such that the threaded shaft **190** extends through the base hole **136** and engages the mounting hole **78**. Axial rotation of the mounting member **32**, such as by using a tool (not shown) to engage the drive cavity **194**, causes the threaded shaft **190** to engage the threaded mounting hole **78** to displace the screw head **192** towards the base main wall **130**. The tool may be extended through the extension wall hole **156** to facilitate engagement of the tool with the drive cavity **194**. When mounting member **32** is tightened such that the screw head **192** engages the base main wall **130**, movement of the lever member **30** along the mounting axis M relative to the magnification adjustment ring **62** is substantially prevented. The lever member **30** is thus detachably attached to the magnification adjustment ring **62** after the mounting member **32** is tightened as described above. The lever member **30** may be detached from the magnification adjustment ring **62** by removing the mounting member **32** and displacing the lever member **30** away from the magnification adjustment ring **62** along the mounting axis M.

[0048] With the lever member **30** detachably attached to the magnification adjustment ring **62** by the mounting member **32**, displacement of the lever member **30** as shown by the arrows in FIG. **3** facilitates axial rotation of the magnification adjustment ring **62** about the scope axis S. In particular, the user may apply finger pressure to one, two, or all three of the textured wall surfaces **160**, **162**, and **164**. Because the textured wall surfaces **160**, **162**, and **164** are all spaced further from the scope axis S than the mounting surface **70** of the magnification adjustment ring **62**, the lever member **30** provides a mechanical advantage that reduces the amount of finger pressure required to cause axial rotation of the magnification adjustment ring **62**. Further, because the extension portion **122** is formed by first and second extension side walls that are relatively thin and spaced from each other to define lever opening **34** and sightline **36**, the extension portion **122** only minimally obstructs the user's view of the indicia **90** formed on any of the first, second, and third adjustment turrets **80**, **82**, and **84** as the magnification adjustment ring **62** is rotated relative to the scope tube **40** as shown in FIG. **3**. This expanded field of view through the lever member **30** allows a user to quickly and easily locate and manipulate any adjustment turret or scope accessory lying along the lever axis L while minimizing displacement of the user's eye from the eye piece of the optical scope. This, in turn, facilitates more rapid adjustment and aiming of the optical scope, and thus delivery of accurate fire in both sporting and tactical applications.

[0049] Although embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims. For example, alternate embodiments of a lever assembly can be constructed in accordance with the principles of the invention disclosed herein to detachably attached to optical scopes which define a mounting surface having a different configuration from that of the optical scope depicted in the drawings. It is also contemplated that embodiments of the present invention could employ two or more mounting members, including one or more mounting members having a different configuration from that shown in the drawings.

[0050] This written description uses examples to disclose the invention and also to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the invention, including making and using any devices or systems and performing any incorporated methods. The patentable scope of the invention is defined by the claims, and may include other examples that occur to those skilled in the art. Such other examples are intended to be within the scope of the claims if they have structural elements that do not differ from the literal language of the